

Amendment to the Abstract

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A materials handling system comprises a rotary shelf rotatable around a rotary shelf axis, and a plurality of load receiving sections disposed on a rotary circular path having its center located at the rotary shelf axis. A transfer operating section of a transfer ~~means~~ disposed laterally outside the rotary shelf is rotatable around a transfer ~~means~~ axis and operates on a transfer circular path tangentially superposed on the rotary circular path, and a fixed shelf is installed on the transfer circular path. The transfer ~~means~~ unnecessitates an occupied space for travel, and the whole system including the rotary shelf and fixed shelf can be made compact in size. The transfer ~~means~~ having no traveling mechanism allows the transfer operating section to be lowered almost to the floor. With the rotary shelf and fixed shelf, the storage level is allowed to be lowered to further increase the amount of storage.